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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-36. Please add the following new claims 37-46.

1-36 (Cancelled)

37. (New) A data card comprising:

a rectangular, non-magnetic substrate including opposed first and second sides;

a circular data storage region exposed at the first side of the substrate, wherein the data storage region includes a thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material that is overlaid by a protective layer, and the protective layer includes at least two layers, wherein one of said layers includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material and another of said layers is a non-magnetic friction reducing layer formed over the magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

38. (New) The data unit of claim 37, wherein the data card further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said at least one magnetic material layer, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.

39. (New) A data card comprising:

a rectangular, non-magnetic substrate including opposed first and second sides;

a circular data storage region exposed at the first side of the substrate, wherein the data storage region includes a thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material

that is overlaid by a bendable, abradeable protective layer, and the protective layer includes includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

40. (New) The data unit of claim 39, wherein said protective coating comprises at least two layers, with a first one of the layers being formed of the magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material and a second of the layers being a non-magnetic friction reducing layer formed over the magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

*41* 41. (New) The data unit of claim 40, wherein the data card further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said at least one magnetic material layer, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.

42. (New) The data unit of claim 39, wherein the data card further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said at least one magnetic material layer, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.

43. (New) A method for reading a data card with a data processing station, the method comprising:

providing a data card including a rectangular, non-magnetic substrate including opposed first and second surfaces, and circular data storage region on one of the first and second surfaces, the data storage region includes a thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material that is overlaid

by a bendable, abraadeable protective layer that includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material;

providing a data processing station including at least one transducer capable of communicating signals with the data storage region; and

rotating the data card within the data processing station while communicating signals between the at least one transducer and the data storage region.

*44* 44. (New) The data unit of claim 43, wherein the data storage region further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said at least one magnetic material layer, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.

45. (New) A method for reading a data card with a data processing station, the method comprising:

providing a data card including a rectangular, non-magnetic substrate including opposed first and second sides, and a circular data region at the first side of the substrate, wherein the data region includes a thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material that is overlaid by a bendable, abraadeable protective layer that includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material;

providing a data processing station including at least one transducer capable of communicating signals with the data storage region; and

rotating the data card within the data processing station while communicating signals between the at least one transducer and the data storage region.

*Amended*

46. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the data card further comprises a non-magnetic material layer positioned between the protective coating and said at least one magnetic material layer, said magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material being responsive through said non-magnetic layer to produce a magnetic image field.

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